

247. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Resident in portions of Concho County. Very common in spring and fall. They wander considerably after January 1, in search of berries, which are very scarce. Associates frequently with the two next. A nest was found in a hole in an old stump in July, 1882, with four eggs. Young in spotted plumage shot throughout August.

248. *Sialia mexicana*. WESTERN BLUEBIRD. — Rare winter visitant. Shot in flocks of the common Bluebird in Concho County.

249. *Sialia arctica*. MOUNTAIN BLUEBIRD. — Rare until the fall of 1886, when it appeared in immense flocks, and was very unwary, feeding with Cedarbirds and other species on the numerous wild berries in October and November. Some of the males were nearly ultramarine; others in the same flock were various shades of blue. None seen since January 10, 1887.

ADDENDA. — 250. *Rallus elegans*. KING RAIL. — One seen in South Concho, in the spring of 1886, by Mr. Cope, who tried to catch it with a dog.

251. *Pandion haliaëtus carolinensis*. OSPREY. — Several pairs breed on South Brady, according to Mr. Cope.

252. *Chordeiles virginianus henryi*. WESTERN NIGHTHAWK. — Rare on the Plains; probably breeds.

253. *Spizella monticola ochracea*. WESTERN TREE SPARROW.—Common in small flocks, winter of 1884-85.

CORRECTION.—On page 183, line 16 from bottom, for "about 240" read 253.

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## ADDITIONS TO THE AVI-FAUNA OF BAYOU SARA, LA.

BY CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM.

IN the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club' for July, 1882, I gave an annotated list of the birds of Bayou Sara, Louisiana, the result of five days' work during the month of April of that year. Eighty-six species were enumerated. Since then I have had an opportunity of making further observations at the same place; extending over a much longer period, from April 1 to April 28, and am able to add twenty-seven species to the fauna as heretofore given.

The weather during the period mentioned was exceptionally dry, both for the season and the locality, which fact doubtless

had its effect upon the water birds, as but few were seen, but nearly all the species of land birds noted were represented by large numbers of individuals. At the date of my arrival vegetation was very far advanced, and at the stage which ordinarily prevails in the neighborhood of Washington about the middle of May.

A great deal of time was spent collecting in the densely wooded ravines alluded to further on, localities almost entirely neglected during my former visit. It was here that Swainson's Warbler most abounded, and the Hooded was always to be seen and heard in the same haunts; the male leisurely skipping about the branches at a distance of ten or twenty feet from the ground, singing in a languid sort of way, while the sharp *tsip* of the less gaudily attired female proceeded from the canes and scant undergrowth near the ground. On April 17 I found an empty nest, just finished, two feet from the ground, in a clump of small canes in one of these ravines, attached to one of the canes. On the 24th the female was seen on the nest, which then contained four perfectly fresh eggs. These birds were also very abundant in the swamp, where I once heard four singing at the same time.

The Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher were fully as abundant as in 1882; the former being found in the usual open places, near dwellings, in gardens, etc., and great numbers of them were nesting in the Cherokee rose bushes along Alexander's Creek. Like most of his tribe, the Mockingbird readily adapts himself to his environment in the matter of nest-building, and finding cotton-wool the most abundant and accessible material suitable for his purposes he uses a great deal of it. In all the nests examined (at least a dozen) the 'great staple' was the principal constituent. The Thrashers I found in every sort of place visited: building their nests in the crepe myrtles and rose bushes about the house, and again down in the darkest and most dismal places in the swamp.

The Catbird did not put in his appearance until the 18th. Although abundant here, he is a bird of very retiring habits, and exclusively a denizen of the woods and dense thickets, so that but few of the natives know of his presence at all, while in most northern and eastern localities he is as familiar a bird as the Robin or House Wren. However, the Wood Thrush, which is very common, makes an agreeable substitute, coming about the

dwellings with the fearless confidence of the Chipping Sparrow, and by his unexpected sociability atoning for the Catbird's shortcomings in this respect. They were first seen on April 4.

Bluebirds were not numerous, but the two or three pairs seen were evidently nesting. The Gnatcatchers and Blue Yellow-backed Warblers were particularly abundant and voluble; the former always going in pairs. Carolina Chickadees were found every day, and I saw several pairs of adult birds conducting their noisy broods through the woods in search of food. Their active relatives, the Tufted Titmice, were very common and found in all sorts of places, almost equaling in this respect the ubiquitous Carolina Wren, a bird probably exceeding in numbers any other summer resident here, and which finds itself at home anywhere, nesting indifferently in the stable, under the piazza, or in an old stump down in the swamp. But wherever he may be, he makes no secret of his whereabouts, for hill and dale and swamp and garden, all resound from dawn to twilight with the full-toned, tireless songs of this Orphean prodigy. I say songs, for the Carolina Wren is no one-tuned musical bore, but possesses much of the vocal versatility of his more favored rival the Mockingbird. They pair quite early here, for towards the last of April I saw many young birds flying about accompanied by the parents.

I saw but three or four Black-and-white Warblers, but was fortunate enough to find a nest on the 23d, containing four partly incubated eggs. It was on the ground on a densely wooded hillside, loosely constructed of dead leaves, etc., and was roofed over so as to be completely sheltered from the rain. The female did not leave her nest until I was within two or three feet of her, when she flew to the ground feigning lameness, but this old and pathetic subterfuge had just the opposite effect it was intended to have. The nest was admirably concealed and would never have been found had not the bird itself indicated its location.

The Yellow Warbler was often seen in the tree tops along the creek bottom, and the Redstart was generally found in the same places but always among the lower branches. The Pine Warbler, which was not uncommon in 1882, was not seen at all, nor was the Sycamore Warbler met with; and but one Blackburnian was observed, a male taken on the 20th.

Golden-crowned Thrushes arrived on the 24th and soon became common in their usual haunts, which were frequented also by

the Kentucky Warbler, one of the most abundant birds here. The Maryland Yellow-throat and Yellow-breasted Chat became very numerous towards the last of the month, particularly in open places near the edges of the swamp, localities I was surprised to find much affected by the White-throated Sparrow, which was abundant up to the date of my departure.

The Red-eyed and White-eyed Vireos were found in abundance, the latter much the more numerous of the two, while the Warbling Vireo was seen but once—in a shade tree in Bayou Sara. The Purple Martin was abundant in town but was seen nowhere else. The Cedarbird was several times observed in small flocks. It is said that none are seen here in summer, but in fall and early spring it is very abundant and great numbers of them are killed for the table.

The Rough-winged Swallows, which arrived in March, were present in force, and were breeding in holes in the banks along Alexander's Creek, where the Kingfishers were also nesting. A nest containing young Kingfishers was found on the 20th. The Summer Tanagers arrived on the 12th in full song and immediately became common. I found them at home in the swamp as well as on the high ground.

The Savanna Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, and Chewink were rather common, but Bachman's Finch, though diligently searched for, was not seen at all. Two specimens of this rare bird were taken here in 1882. The Nonpareil is a scarce bird here, as but two were seen during my stay: a male and female on the 23d. The Swamp Sparrow was sparingly represented among the transients.

The Cardinal Grosbeak was breeding abundantly everywhere, and the Red-winged Blackbirds, preferring upland ponds to other places, were paired and beginning to build. A few Meadow Larks and Baltimore Orioles were seen, and the Orchard Orioles were quite abundant, the yellow males considerably exceeding in numbers those in chestnut and black.

In the former paper the following note concerning the Grackle found here is given: "*Quiscalus purpureus*. Purple Grackle.—A common Grackle about the river and bayou at Bayou Sara is referred to this form, as the one found forty or fifty miles down the river is, according to Dr. Langdon, the Purple, and not the Bronzed Grackle." This supposition turns out to be erroneous. No spec-

imens were shot in 1882, but this time I was fortunate enough to obtain one, which proves to be typical *Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*. They appeared in the neighborhood of Bayou Sara during the preceding winter in enormous flocks and did a great deal of damage to the growing crops. They destroyed five acres of corn for Mr. James P. Bowman, a planter, near Bayou Sara, pulling the young sprouts up by the roots. Mr. Bowman poisoned several thousand of them with arsenic, but unfortunately a good many Carolina Doves were killed along with the Grackles.

The Blue Jays were exceedingly abundant, and the customary state of warfare prevailed between these rowdy freebooters and the rest of the feathered tribe. Kingbirds, Great-crested Flycatchers, and Woodpeckers were about equally represented; and their respective dates of arrival being April 3, 7, and 6. Acadian Flycatchers, first noted on the 13th, were occasionally seen and heard in dense woodland. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Chimney Swifts were abundant. The note of Chuck-will's-widow was first heard on the evening of April 11; the birds soon became very common, and as soon as twilight came on were to be heard on all sides. They would generally cease singing before eight o'clock, and occasionally one would be heard in the morning at daybreak. A few Nighthawks were seen, and one was shot from a small pine tree in an open place. It permitted me to approach within fifteen feet.

Among the Woodpeckers, besides *Picus villosus*, elsewhere noted, the Downy, Red-bellied, and Red-headed were well represented, but only three or four Flickers were observed. The Yellow-billed Cuckoos arrived on the 18th and were very abundant.

Judge Lawrason, who lives in the country near Bayou Sara, informed me that as late as 1875 he found the Carolina Parakeet every year at his place, but since that date he has neither seen nor heard of any in this locality.

A great many Vultures and Carrion Crows were seen, the latter being particularly abundant.

The only water birds observed, other than those elsewhere mentioned, were Wilson's Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Little Green Heron, and Coot. A pair of the latter were seen on a large upland pond, considerably overgrown with water-lillies, etc., and a negro living near by asserts that they breed there.

87. *Ajaja ajaja*. ROSEATE SPOONBILL.—Mr. George Bains, of Waverly Plantation, shot one of these birds several years ago, feeding along the edge of a pond near his house, and Judge Lawrason informed me that it breeds sparingly in the swamp.

88. *Elanoides forficatus*. SWALLOW-TAILED KITE.—I did not see this bird, but several trustworthy persons informed me that it was not uncommon in the swamp.

89. *Buteo harlani*. HARLAN'S HAWK.—Not seen by me. Audubon states that he shot the type specimen of this rare Hawk at Bayou Sara.

90. *Dryobates villosus*. HAIRY WOODPECKER.—A common bird here. On April 11 I shot a fully fledged young female. The only difference noted between it and the adult was in the smaller size of the latter, particularly the bill.

91. *Empidonax flaviventris*. YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER.—Not seen until the 26th when two were taken and several more observed. Apparently preferring open places to the woodland.

92. *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*. GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.—First seen on the 9th; common afterwards.

93. *Spizella socialis*. CHIPPING SPARROW.—Common in suitable places. Not seen in the woods.

94. *Spizella pusilla*. FIELD SPARROW.—Abundant and breeding.

95. *Passer domesticus*. EUROPEAN HOUSE SPARROW.—These pests have recently gained a foothold in Bayou Sara, but are not very numerous. None were seen in the country.

96. *Spiza americana*. DICKCISSEL.—But one individual of this handsome species was seen, a male, which was shot on the 20th, in a meadow in company with Grasshopper Sparrows.

97. *Piranga erythromelas*. SCARLET TANAGER.—While here in 1882 I shot a female of this species which is still in my collection, but in writing up my notes of that trip the capture was overlooked. None were seen during my last visit.

98. *Petrochelidon lunifrons*. CLIFF SWALLOW.—Noted but once, on April 23, when several were seen flying about a large pond in company with *T. bicolor*, *C. erythrogastra*, and *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*.

99. *Chelidon erythrogastra*. BARN SWALLOW.—Several times seen but apparently not common.

100. *Tachycineta bicolor*. TREE SWALLOW.—First observed perched on some telegraph wires on the 9th, and again seen in considerable numbers near the same place on April 23.

101. *Vireo flavifrons*. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO.—This Vireo was not observed until April 9, when two were heard singing. Several times seen afterwards, but never in the dense woods; always in trees about open places.

102. *Protonotaria citrea*. PROTHONOTARY WARBLER.—The first individual of this species was seen and captured on April 6, in a willow tree near a pond in the creek bottom, but they did not appear in force until the 12th, on which day I shot five, and saw at least twenty more. They

continued to be common in suitable places up to the time of my departure, and a great many pairs were undoubtedly breeding. I found two nests just completed, one on the 16th and the other on the 25th, neither of which contained eggs. They were placed in old Woodpecker holes, in hollow snags about fifteen feet from the ground. Although a number of the birds were seen in the swamp, the most of them were found about the willow trees along Alexander's Creek, a locality, however, only about one half of a mile from the swamp. They were usually quite tame and unsuspecting. Five or six of the twenty-five specimens taken had the feathers of the forehead stained and gummed up with some sticky, resinous substance that could not be washed off.

103. *Helmitherus vermivorus*. WORM-EATING WARBLER.—A rather common bird, inhabiting mostly the same places as *H. swainsoni*, that is, densely wooded ravines. First seen on April 11. Towards the end of the month I found several pairs which were evidently mated and nesting, but no nests were found.

104. *Helinaia swainsoni*. SWAINSON'S WARBLER.—Although I only spent five days at this place in 1882, it is surprising, in view of facts cited below, that Swainson's Warbler was not met with. On April 8, while standing near the edge of a dense tangle of cane and 'black jack' (a sort of vine), I heard a bird-note entirely new to me, but which reminded me very much of the song of the Large-billed Water-thrush. It was impossible to get at the bird, and I did not again hear the note until three days afterward. I was sitting on the ground in a densely wooded ravine, where the only sounds to be heard proceeded from the usual horde of hungry mosquitoes, singing about my head, now and then mingled with the languid ditty of a Hooded Warbler lazily foraging for insects in the branches above, when a small, dark looking bird whizzed by me like an arrow and disappeared in a small clump of canes and bushes growing in the bottom of the ravine. Just as I was about getting up to look for it the same Seiurine song, heard before, burst forth, apparently only a few feet distant; then it dawned upon me that I was in the presence of the much sought for *Helinaia swainsoni*. The song was uttered at intervals of about half a minute, the bird all the time remaining perfectly motionless, and for fully ten minutes I sat in the same place eagerly scanning everything in the direction of the sound, which apparently changed with every utterance, afraid to move lest the slightest noise or motion should drive off the puzzling ventriloquist. After having finished the performance to his apparent satisfaction, he flew from a twig directly in front of me to the ground, when the usual tragedy took place. Hardly had I picked the bird up before two more appeared upon the scene; two belligerent males fighting and chasing each other about. One of these was also secured, and two or three more were seen or heard that day in similar localities.

The bird is undoubtedly common here, for altogether I obtained twenty specimens during my stay; on one day taking as many as four. It is, however, exceedingly difficult to get them, but, as Mr. Brewster in his interesting account of the species, says, "once seen it is yours"—if you can

only see it, for, like the Whip-poor-will, it is oftener heard than seen. On at least a dozen occasions I have stood within twenty or thirty feet of a male singing in the manner above described, and been unable to see him, until, tired of fruitless searching, I would make a noise, when off he would dart into a brake where it would be a waste of time and energy to follow.

Four or five times I saw the bird on the ground, *walking* about in that deliberate manner peculiar to the Golden-crowned and Water Thrushes, and twice I have observed the male singing on the ground, pausing every eight or ten steps in his search for insects to throw back his head and pour forth his curious melody, a habit, so far as I have read, not noted by previous observers.

Although occasionally found along the edges of the swamp, the favorite haunts were the dark, wooded ravines, making off from Alexander's Creek and other water courses. Along the bottoms of these ravines cane is always to be found growing, and the bare ground in these small brakes forms the favorite feeding places of the bird. Although no nests were found, they were evidently paired and breeding before I left.

105. *Helminthophila peregrina*. TENNESSEE WARBLER.—Only one individual was recognized, a male shot out of a party of four or five Warblers skipping about the top of a willow in the creek bottom on April 25.

106. *Dendroica coronata*. MYRTLE WARBLER.—During the first three or four days of my stay I found the Myrtle Warbler quite common in parties of from four to eight, but none were seen after April 7. All those observed were moulting.

107. *Dendroica cærulea*. CÆRULEAN WARBLER.—But one individual of this species was seen, a handsome male in full spring plumage, which was shot from the top of a sycamore on April 20.

108. *Dendroica pennsylvanica*. CHESNUT-SIDED WARBLER.—This Warbler seems also to be a rare bird here, as but one was observed, a male shot in the creek bottom, April 22.

109. *Seiurus noveboracensis*. WATER THRUSH.—One of these birds was taken in the swamp on April 26. It was in company with another of the same species. No others were noted.

110. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—Evidently a rare bird here, as I saw it but once, April 20, when one of a pair was shot in a clump of briars.

111. *Regulus calendula*. RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET.—This Kinglet was quite abundant early in April, and the males were in full song, but they soon left for the North. *R. satrapa* was not seen at all.

112. *Turdus aliciae*. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH.—Not seen until the 22d, after which date they became rather common, but I never saw more than one in the same place.

113. *Turdus aoniaschkæ pallasi*. HERMIT THRUSH.—Rather common in suitable places. Doubtless a winter resident here.